

Kentucky, 1861

Setup Session 1



Louisville, Kentucky in 1846

What are we doing in the “set-up”?

- March 10: Historical background and context I
 - Federalism, slavery, conflicts over slavery
- March 12: Historical background and context II
 - The rise of the Republican Party and the election of 1860
 - Discuss Lincoln and Seward readings
- March 24: Final preparations
 - Document discussions, game rules, Race Argument Quiz, election of speaker

Some Game Comments

- You received your role sheets via email and will receive paper copies today.
- Send me your character's name.
- The grade outcome of the game is the papers and newspapers you submit.
 - The point: **how well you play the game has no direct bearing on your grade.**
- You are allowed (but not required) to have fun.

Clarification on the Readings

- As an engaged citizen and politician, your “character” would be familiar with most of the “Core Texts” in the book.
 - Ideally, you should read the entire book.
- If you are pressed for time,
 - Read the texts I have specifically assigned.
 - Read the texts identified in the “With the Texts” subsection of the “Relationships” section of your role sheets.
 - Be aware of the texts your character is particularly invested in.
 - Read the introductory text and marginal notes on all texts.

A Caution

- Students often assume they know more about the causes of secession and loyalty than they do.
 - Be open to having these assumptions challenged!
- Pay close attention to the readings, discussions in class, and your role sheets.
- Remember that in real life four slave states did not secede (including Kentucky!).
- Your characters don't know what happens next.

Questions?

Federal vs. State Power

- How, in the nineteenth century, did federal and state governments reflect the “will of the people” in different ways?
 - Which did people at the time typically see as closer to “the people”?
 - What was the role of the tenth amendment in deciding the balance between the federal and state governments?
 - “The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.”
 - What was the federal government’s role in regulating slavery in the territories?
- What was the Nullification Crisis over?
- Why were many southerners concerned by Lincoln’s election?

Slavery in Kentucky

- Why was it in decline in the early 1800s?
 - Hint: What was happening further South? Further North? How did these changes affect Kentucky?
- How would you describe white Kentuckians' relationship to slavery?



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The American Anti-Slavery Tradition

- Anti-slavery during the Revolutionary Period was followed by decades of stagnation
 - Most whites agreed blacks could not live in America on an equal basis
- Other issues took precedence on the national level
- Slavery was revitalized by the extension of cotton
- American political elites consciously kept slavery out of politics
- The American Colonization Society
 - The main vehicle for anti-slavery activity in the 1820s
 - In favor of the gradual or eventual end of slavery
 - Argued that slavery could only end if free blacks and freed slaves were sent outside of the United States
 - Founded the colony of Liberia
 - Many adherents in the Upper South (including Henry Clay of Kentucky)

The Abolitionists

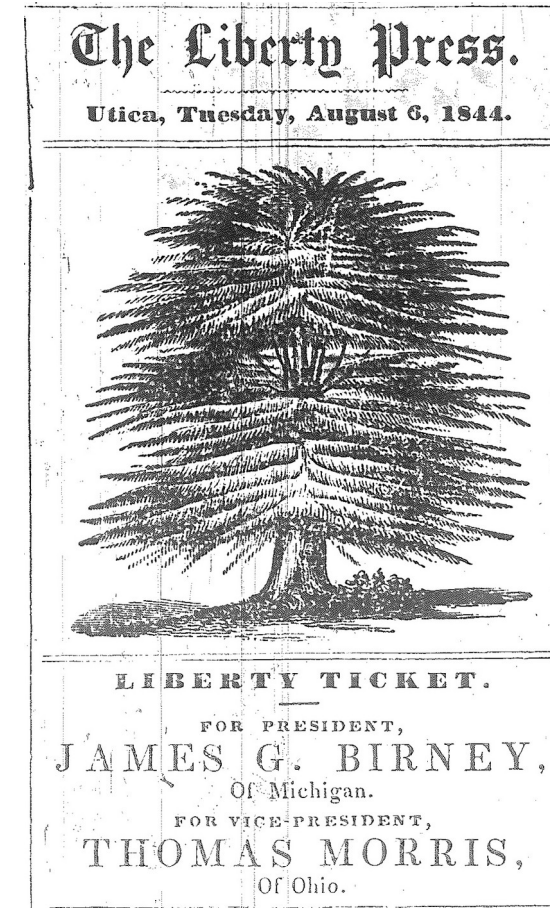
- In response to stagnation, a new group of anti-slavery agitators arose who were frustrated by the lack of progress.
 - Centered on New England
 - Adherents typically very religious evangelical Protestants
 - Called themselves “abolitionists”
- Abolitionists
 - Claimed slavery was a sin and contradicted American ideals
 - Argued that slavery must end immediately and blacks must be given equal rights
 - Used aggressive language that attacked slaveholders
 - Embraced blacks as members and even leaders



William Lloyd Garrison

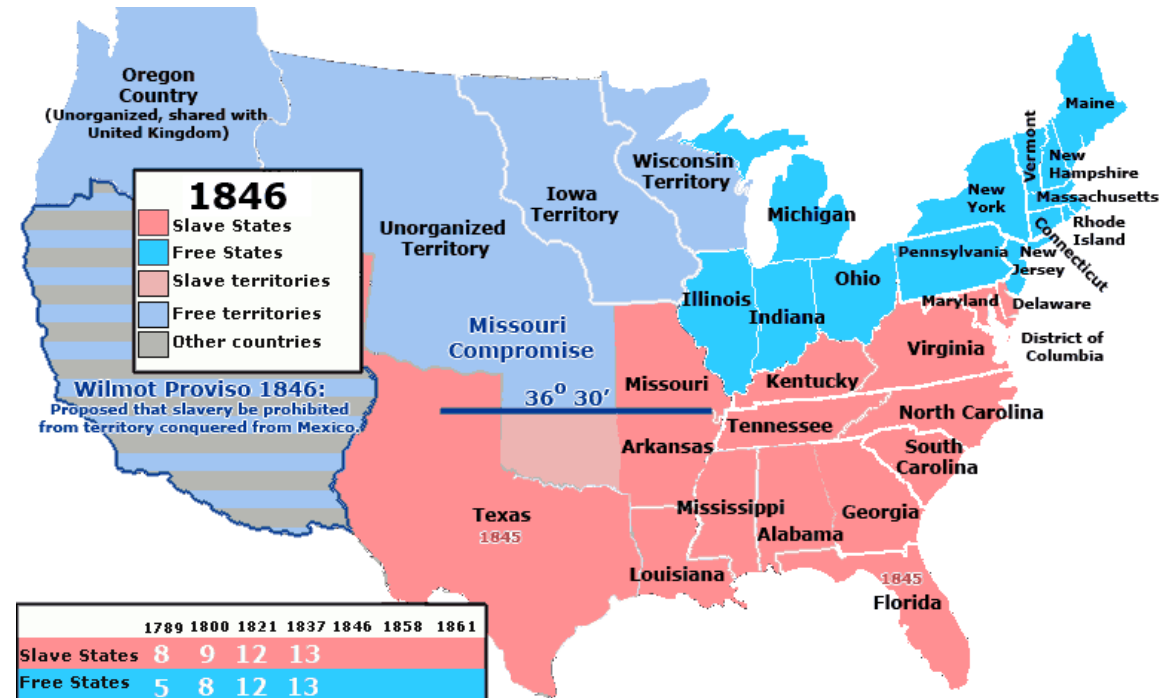
Abolitionism after the 1830s

- Abolitionism went in several different directions
 - Garrisonianism and the pro-slavery constitution
 - Non-Garrisonianism and the anti-slavery constitution
 - Political anti-slavery
 - Violent resistance
- Effects
 - Convinced a minority of northerners of their cause
 - Kept slavery on the national agenda
 - Pushed southerners to react defensively
 - Example: The gag rule



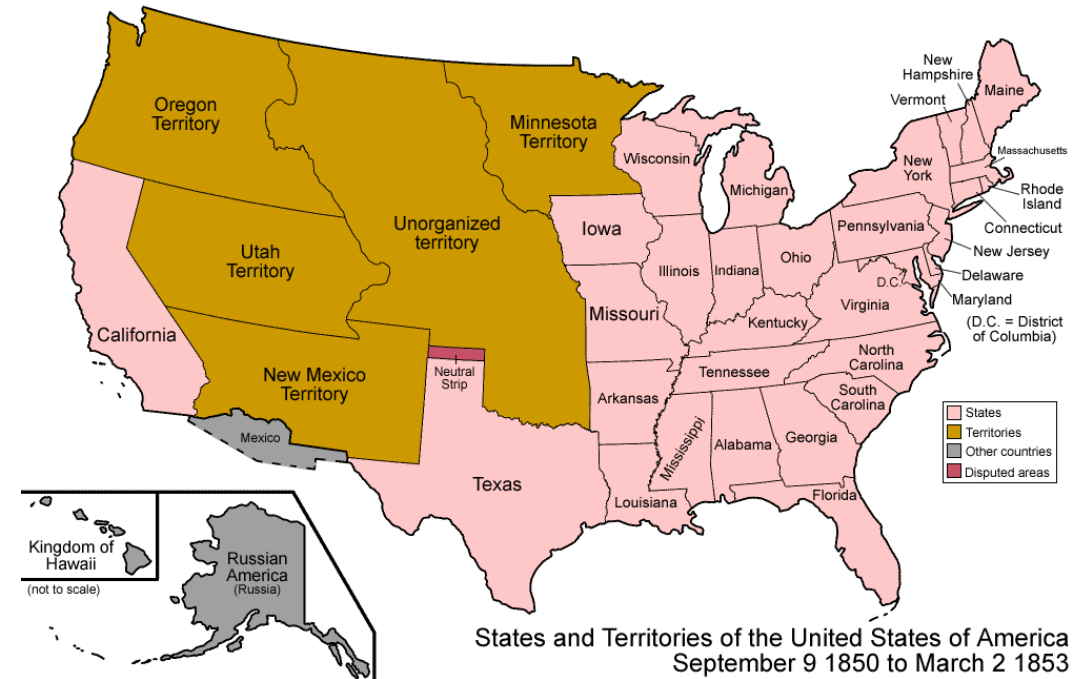
The Wilmot Proviso

- Context: The Mexican-American War
- The Wilmot Proviso
 - Introduced by David Wilmot, a Democrat from Pennsylvania in August 1846
 - Would have excluded slavery from any territory conquered from Mexico
 - Passed the House three times but failed in the Senate on sectional votes
 - For four years the controversy paralyzed Congress



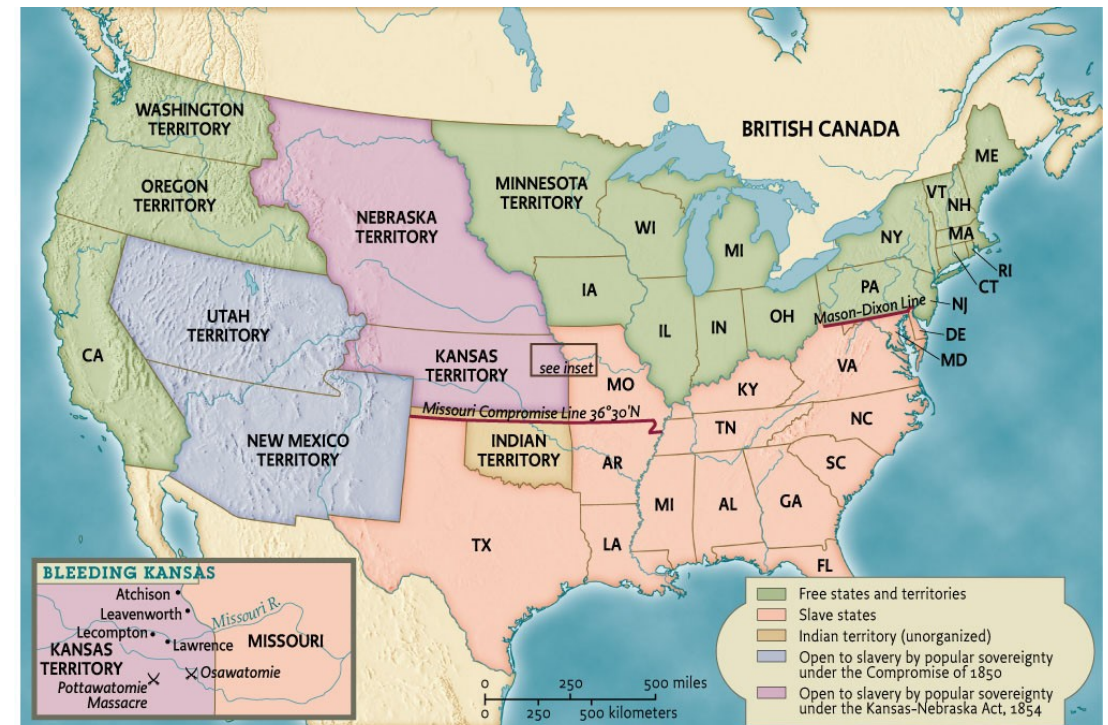
The Compromise of 1850

- Brokered by Henry Clay (of Kentucky) and Stephen Douglass (a rival of Lincoln)
- Five parts
 - California admitted as a free state
 - Slave trade abolished in Washington, D.C.
 - Territories of New Mexico and Utah organized under popular sovereignty
 - Fugitive Slave Act passed
 - Texas gave up its western land claims
- Each part was introduced as a separate bill and passed on a sectional vote.



Kansas-Nebraska Act

- For four years, slavery was kept out of national politics.
- The Kansas-Nebraska act of 1854 brought it back.
- The act
 - Organized the two new territories of Kansas and Nebraska
 - Applied popular sovereignty on the slavery question
 - Voided the Missouri Compromise Line
 - Promoters believed the act would take slavery off the national agenda by making it a local issue



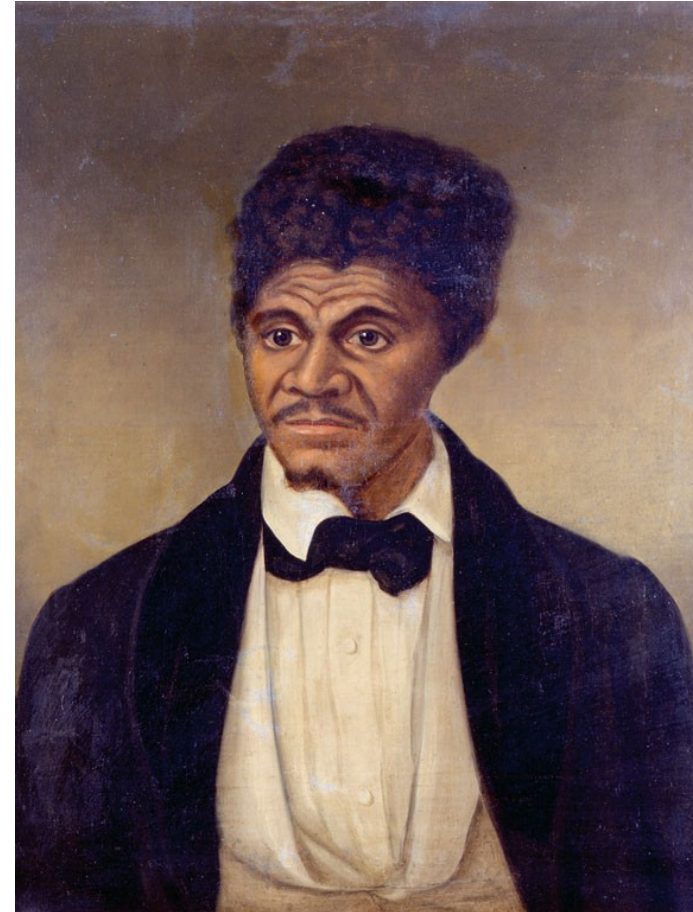
Bleeding Kansas

- From 1854-1858, the Kansas territory saw sporadic fighting between pro- and anti-slavery forces.
 - Both sides armed themselves and used violence.
 - Pro-slavery forces attacked and sacked the anti-slavery capital of Lawrence.
 - Abolitionist radical John Brown killed five pro-slavery settlers.
 - Dozens of people were killed.
- The fate of Kansas festered until the Civil War.



The Dred Scott Decision (1857)

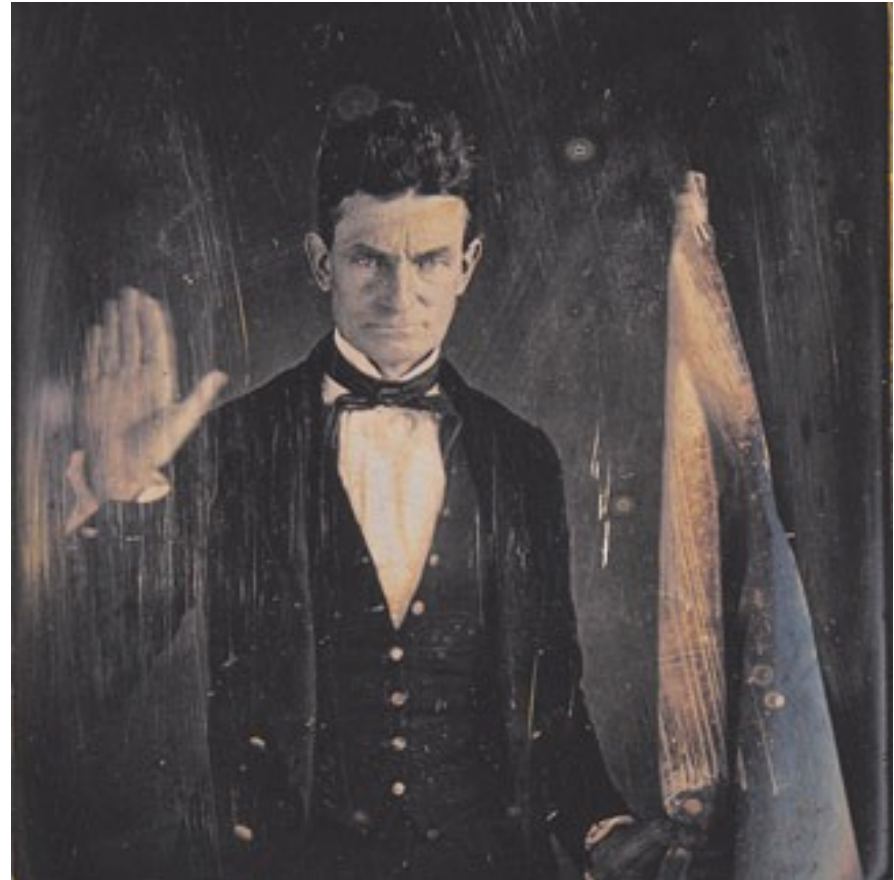
- Revolved around whether Scott was free because he had lived in a free state and territory
- The decisions declared
 - African-Americans are not U.S. citizens
 - Congress could not regulate territories acquired after the ratification of the Constitution
 - Territorial governments could not limit slavery
- Hope by some this would end the controversy over slavery



Dred Scott of the Dred
Scott Decision, 1857

The Raid on Harper's Ferry (1859)

- The raid
 - John Brown and 22 followers
 - Goal to seize a federal arsenal in Virginia and raise a slave rebellion
 - Failed and Brown was hanged
- Later it came to light that it was supported by six prominent abolitionists.
- The raid caused panic across the South.
 - The Kentucky militia law was passed in response to the raid.



John Brown

The Crisis of the Long 1850s

- 1846: Introduction of the Wilmot Proviso
- 1848: Founding of the Free-Soil Party
- 1850: The Compromise of 1850 and the Nashville Convention
- 1854: The Kansas-Nebraska Act and the founding of the Republican Party
- 1854-1858: Bleeding Kansas
- 1856: The Caning of Senator Charles Sumner
- 1857: The Dred Scott Decision
- 1859: John Brown's Raid on Harper's Ferry